STATE OF ILLINOIS
REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides $7.2 billion in federal funding for broadband infrastructure, mapping, training, and education to unserved and underserved communities. Of this amount, $2.5 billion will flow through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Utilities Service Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and $4.7 billion will flow through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Please refer to the Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFAs) for the Broadband Initiatives Program and the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for more information.

Objectives and Priorities
Top priorities for the State include increasing access to world-class broadband and creating jobs. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will serve as the point of contact for access to technical assistance. Support will be available for Illinois projects that:
- Facilitate broadband deployment in rural, unserved and underserved areas;
- Provide broadband access, education, awareness, training, equipment, and support community anchor institutions, or organizations and agencies serving vulnerable populations, or job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally-designated economic development areas;
- Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by business, health care, education, or public safety agencies; and
- Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

Technical Assistance Resources
To support Illinois-based applications for ARRA's highly competitive funding opportunities, a technical assistance network is available to support Illinois-based projects. DCEO and Connect Illinois have partnered to establish a consulting consortium of university-affiliated personnel with federal grant writing experience. The university consultants will assist qualified Illinois public and private sector applicants in the preparation, review and online submission of ARRA broadband proposals. Assistance services will be designed to match the needs of the entities submitting ARRA proposals. The consultants will not draft entire applications.

Application Process
To receive assistance from a university consultant, you must complete the attached form. DCEO staff will screen applications to verify that the proposed project meets ARRA criteria and that the requested technical assistance is appropriate. Applicants that meet the criteria will then be connected with a consultant. Please refer to www.broadband.illinois.gov for related information, including a list of frequently asked questions regarding the application process. Organizations that request technical assistance for ARRA broadband NOFAs will be accepted on a rolling basis. Organizations requesting technical assistance for ARRA Round two proposals are advised to submit this application as soon as possible. Please submit applications for state assistance to ta.broadband@illinois.gov.

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APPLICANT ORGANIZATION			
Legal Name			**Telephone Number:**
Address:			**Fax Number:**
City:		**Zip Code+4**	**Federal Taxpayer Number:**
Web Address		**Date Incorporated:**	**Number of Employees:**
CONTACT INFORMATION			
Salutation:		**First Name:**	**Last Name:**
Title:		**Telephone Number:**	**Fax Number:**
Address:			
City:		**State:**	**Zip + 4:**
E-mail (REQUIRED)			
PROJECT BUDGET			
Total Project Cost: $	**Total Matching Funds:** $	**Federal Grant Request:** $	**Federal Loan Request:** $

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – Provide an executive summary (3 page maximum) of your proposed ARRA-funded project. You only need to answers questions if they pertain to the grant and/or loan opportunity for which you are seeking application assistance.

- Identify the ARRA funding opportunity (BIP: Last Mile, Middle Mile, Satellite Project, Rural Library BTOP: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Public Computer Centers, Sustainable Broadband Adoption).
- Summarize the project - outline which areas/communities of the state it will serve, and include relevant geographic, demographic or market data.
- Describe the qualifications of the project staff, consultants, and/or contractors;
- Will the project serve rural, remote, unserved and/or underserved areas? If so, how?
- Will the project increase the affordability of broadband service? If so, how?
- Will the project improve opportunities for business, health care, education, and/or public safety? If so, how?
- Is the project expected to create and/or save jobs? If so, how many?
- Provide a timeline including key milestones for the project.
- What is the expected long-term operating model (i.e. what is the plan for sustaining the project)?